


STAR OF THE EAST



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Is God or Man the Creator of Evil?

The nature and value of the term "evil" must first be understood before we can answer the question.

The term Evil is the same as the term „Devil” with the only difference that the first have an E to begin with and the latter a D.

Superstition have taught us that there is a “Devil,” or Satan who at one time tried to become greater than God and for such ambition He was cast down from heaven upon earth, and there He has ever since done His best to lead humanity away from the good into the evil ways of life in order that He might gain power to draw such souls to His kingdom hell, when they pass away.” It seems that Shakespeare in his day was very well familiar with the traditions of the Devil, for in all his plays he portrays the power and genius of Him

You will remember that in “Faust” the Devil, or “Mephistopheles” have the principle part as Faust sells himself to Satan in order to become young that he might win the beautiful Margareta for a bride. The Devil watches Faust and Margareta very closely and at the end of the play Faust is compelled to follow Satan to hell.

In Macbeth, Satan uses the witches for his purpose, in Lohengren, Parsifal, and in fact all operas he introduces the Devil as a great genius to torment others for the purpose of gaining their confidence and service in order that he might win them to take them to hell when their stay upon this earth is ended.

We shall see in this article that evil and its inspirer the Devil is nothing but traditional and that evil is really not evil but it is the weaker in man which in due time shall rise into glory.

We do not intend to defend what we call evil, for it defends and convicts itself. Has God created it or is it the workings of man independent of God? We said that we must know its nature and power before we can determine the question.

What is evil? It is good in disguise what is the disguise? Weakness. All things as well as man must in the final rise to full consciousness of him, and itself. There is but one method which law uses and that is the law of action, every where, and by it all things and all beings must change from one Degree to the other, and by so doing it rises higher and from its primary weakness it becomes stronger all the time and by becoming stronger it partakes of the higher (called the good) and so it becomes good in proportion as it undergoes the rising process until all the weakness has given place to the stronger or better.

A thing which is subject to changes cannot be judged until it has reached its highest change, it is the same as to value a diamond before its final cutting has taken place, no one would offer a large sum for an uncut diamond but after it is cut one can see its brilliancy and that is the time when its value can be determined. It is the same with good and evil, since evil is subject to changes and by them can become good then we must not judge the evil until we have given the evil-doer the chance which belongs to his development and after he has had his proper place of activity in evolution then we will see that he does not live in the previous weakness any longer but he has become stronger and demonstrates his higher self.

From this we see that what man calls evil is in truth nothing but undeveloped good, and it follows that as far as God is concerned He has not created anything but good, and man is subject to the slow growth dictated by the law of evolution and by this he rises higher as his mind gains the understanding of the *will* of the everlasting law of wisdom. You would not punish your little baby because it cannot walk as soon as you would wish, to suit your convenience, but that does not say that your little one will not walk at all, you do not blame it because you look forward to the time when it will become strong enough to

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walk for itself. It is the same way with weak-minded people, why do we not give them credit for what they shall do when they have risen to higher understanding? why do you not see in your fellow-man the possibilities which are latent, why not bear with those whom are lower down in weakness than we are? Why not help them by thought and deed to rise quicker instead of placing burdens upon them by condemnations? If Evil is undeveloped good than there can be but one Good and that is active *now* as well as in the future.

It must be remembered that "as we thinketh so we will become;" if we think of Evil we shall draw to us the lowest vibrations which will harm our body as well as retard the soul in its growth to higher expression.

We are anxious to impress upon the mind of our students that the thinker are not exempt from the consequences of their thinking, but the effects of their thoughts visit themselves first and makes their impress upon them before they finally rebound to the subject of whom we think, and in order to save ourselves we should be careful what we think as we will become the image of our thoughts.

Evil in all its expressions is the explanation we give to all the emotions of unconsciousness, but when they are truly analyzed we see that they become the power for good for they are expressed through us for the purpose of learning to govern our weaker selves and finally rise out of it all-together.

If evil is a primary state of good, then man can rise out of that state and do good instead of evil and thus we see that back of the lower emotions is the same energy which is back of those who are stronger against temptations and that power or germ within will in due time express itself so that instead of allowing the lower to rule us we will rule it.

We see thus that the lower emotions is but the struggle in weakness before we have been able to rise into more consciousness and as soon as we can rise higher the lower emotions will no longer rule us, and finding this it will be impossible to recognize but one power back of all things and that is the same power which is expressed in what we call "good" with the only difference that the latter is risen to a stronger plane of expression and thus demonstrate more individuality of the soul and body than we can do while we are in the weaker expression.

We should not for one moment think that God is inconsistent, He could not create Evil as it would be to deny Himself, but all is good and will so manifest as soon as it reaches the plane of expression where man can see it.

We can not help but see a purpose in all things, and whatever happens to man is for the purpose of teaching him a lesson whether he can see it or not; if he fails to learn the lesson he will have another and harder one until he can see the purpose and profit by it.

Life is a school where destiny has placed man to study it and learn the lessons which law demands that we learn, and if we know our lessons and help others to learn their lessons we have made the proper use of our lives and also made good Karma by which we will benefit in our next body.

What happens to us is for the purpose of teaching us this truth, as we are not in this body for the purpose of eating, drinking and dying; but to take part in the distribution of the power by which our soul will be able to help other souls.

Thus we see that what we call evil is not evil but a weaker expression of good, and we also see that God has not created evil but "all He has made is indeed good" and there can be no inconsistency in God's plan.

Have man created evil, or is he the author of the wrong he commits? In the first place there can be nothing created in the full sense of the word, as that implies that there would be an end to all things, but when we ask if man is the originator of his deeds then we need to be *just* and free from prejudice in order to find the proper answer.

Often it seems as though man is the originator of his own thoughts and deeds, but if we can expand our thoughts to investigate the law of cause and effect we will come to the conclusion that we live each others lives and think each others thoughts, also that nothing is lost but life is made up of the energies sent forth by every being who have lived as well as that shall live on this plane.

If we are so responsive to the thought waves in the atmosphere as to respond to them unconsciously, then it behooves us to learn never to condemn until we have made it clear to our own mind whether thoughts or deeds or both are original or vibrations from the waves in the atmosphere.

We have seen that Evil becomes good and therefore we cannot be consistent and hold that evil is evil but we must admit that it is the same as that which we call good in its weaker expression.

If man can recognize this *now*, much of the sorrows which he undergoes could be spared and he would learn his lesson just the same by comparing the lower and the higher.

Do you not see the love of God permeating all things? Do you not see the beauty in nature underneath the garb of the coarser? If you do how can it be called evil because it has not reached its highest expression? "God looked upon all things that He made and it was indeed good" and we must learn to do thing like God; recognize all things as good and we will see more and more goodness.

A person who recognizes the good in things will not commit wrongs because the wrong (weaker) have no power to surround such persons, but the more we see evil the more evil we will become guilty of.

Man cannot recognize a thing and not live in

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it, therefore those whom recognize this they live in it and are the evil doers.

Let it be understood that what one sees as evil is not evil to another, because things becomes to us personally as we recognize them but this rule is not general, each one will have what he attracts to himself by the thoughts and recognition.

To be consistent one must admit that there is no evil except what each individual draw to him and herself by the vibrations which the mind set into action and in that wise man is the attraction for the evil he commits because he believes in it and recognizes it. If man held the good as much in his mind as he holds evil he would do good where he now expresses the lower and weaker. Remember that the good is the stronger and evil is the weaker; one attracts the finer and stronger vibrations and the other the weaker and coarser

A person who sees and recognizes the good will always be healthy and happy whereas the one who holds the weaker in his mind, is always weak, unhealthy and unhappy.

Have forbearance and look for the good in everybody and you will see more and more of it and have peace.

There never was anything created as everything has always been but what is moves onward to greater perfection all the time and while it is on its journey to higher expression it expresses as the condition is through which it passes.

Look at nature in man and things, notice the dual expression in and through matter personified and otherwise, and we will see that everything is capable of some good. Behold nature at spring-time while in its budding; behold the flowers in the summer, listen to the songs of the birds, and the roamings of the beasts as well as the song and speech of man.

Behold the stars in the sky and the roarings of the ocean and combine its efforts in its unconsciousness and see if there is anything which does not strive for a higher expression all the time.

To you who do not find anything but faults with thy fellow-man, dost thou know that thy brains are in disorder? Has it appeared to you that you need to become converted to see God's hand in your own making, has it not appeared to you that the fault is with yourself instead of with others. I hope that your eyes will be opened before your time is ended in this body, for you will certainly have darkness around you after you leave your form, for such as you live in such will your condition be after you lay off the mortal coil. You that indulge in slander and other misdeeds, you live in the weaker and you attract to you all the weaknesses in which you live, and you will never advance higher until you conquer such habits. In this wise, man is more or less the originator of his own sorrows, but God has created nothing but good.

Let us see the good in all things and we will

be happier here than we have been before, let us hold happiness in our minds, and life in this body will become more glorious than we have ever known it to be and all the narrowness and darkness which we attract to us will disperse and we will see the beauty and loveliness of everything and sunshine will overshadow us body and soul and we will see that the term evil is invented by ignorance and is but a tradition while all is good of eternity and shall become glorified in man and things throughout.

Lesson

For the coming thirty days we will hold our mind upon the overcoming of discontentment, fault-finding and ill-speaking of others.

We are sure that all who read the Star, are eager to develop the higher faculties latent and since it cannot be accomplished before we have overcome all the little things which holds us fettered to this plane, it will be more practical and helpful to us to begin with such things as are obstacles for our beginning to realize who we are and what we can, and must become.

As long as the small things demands our attention and obedience we will not realize that we are in danger of being delayed in our advancement, but as soon as our attentions have been attracted to these things we are on the road of overcoming them.

Christ said "He that overcometh," and this shows that He knew that there was none free from sin, but He also preached that we must overcome it in order to know of the higher soul-life which we can live here and now. By united Concentration we can help one another to rise out of the ignorance and narrowness in which we are and go on learning more of the freedom which was meant that we should enjoy while in this body.

To live in the lower is to live a life in *misery pain and loneliness* and these things closes our eyes to light and happiness until we become awakened to know the cause of our sorrows while here.

Let us take with this lesson the letter "nun" of the 119th Psalm of David and let us read it and sing it until we have attracted its beautiful vibrations to us, and then hold in our mind that we are souls endowed with the possibilities of higher expressions and if we sit for 30 minutes between 6 and 7 in the morning and 10 and 11 in the evening, Thursdays as principle days, we will derive wonderful strength to overcome being effected by what is said and done to us. Remember when you sit that there are those all over this and other countries who are with you in the same endeavor to overcome.

This lesson will be active from the 7th of May to the 7th of June, and we earnestly impress upon the mind of all not to miss the practise of this lesson.

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Communion with the Unseen.

By Alba Odegaard.

Beloved:—Have you ever truly thought of that there is soul in all things? Have you thought of that in the springtime the soul can express its power better than at any other time? Have you learned to understand nature's language so that you can respond to it and thus see that the beauty in nature is the smiles of the souls *love of its own* in things? Do you realize that you are part of all this beauty and that it seeks to have communion with you and attract your attention to its promptings?

Do you realize that life in its practical expression is meant to draw you closer to its bosom in order that you might draw more nourishment from the breast of your loving mother?

Do you not know that in all ages there has been soul communions and that it is the means of the opening of our own souls to the expressions of their affinities?

Go by yourselves and speak to your affinities everywhere and they will answer you and bring new life to you and cause you to understand that you are in this body but for a time in order to learn and teach the lessons for which you came to the plane of physical matter.

Meditate in your own heart upon the life of the soul and the illumination there, and do not allow time to pass and the teachings which is sent to you by the Star every month without being benefited by it as you thus lose the opportunities which is given to you without making the Karma for yourself, as well as to help others before leaving the body.

The masters are sending to you power through the souls who are their servants to become more enlightened and if you miss your communions in the silence you cannot be helped because it is by soul-communion in silence that we come closer to the inner temple where we are being filled with the higher life.

Be in communion with the soul by yourself and you will be glorified by it.

Question Box.

Q. Is it possible that we can leave our body for good and be physically conscious, if so do we remember our body?—Rudolph.

A. Brother, what we call consciousness pertains only to the five physical senses which is (sense-life) limited to the outer body alone, and when we lay off the body we also cease to act in the senses of the body, and this shows us that consciousness properly speaking does not belong to the physical, but to the soul which expresses itself through the senses and when we lay off the physical tools for thought called the senses, we part with the body so completely that we do not exercise thought upon it.

Memory pertains to the completeness of the use of the outer senses, that which the world calls "consciousness". When we lay off the body we might be conscious but we are not so in the physical nor do we dwell with the physical if we have developed higher while we used the physical body.

Q. What is mysterious about the deck of Cards?—PHILIP.

A. The spiritual, *soul* and *mind* power which they attract because of them representing the Planetary actions upon all matter; they also

represent the law of evolution in man and things.

Q. Sister, I have read in some of the Stars of the East, that one must abstain from unity of sex; would such not cause the dying out of the race upon this plane?—OTTO.

A. Brother, the abstinence in this wise, refers to the habitual waste of the finer forces in the body by which we build cells as well as brains, and it also means that the race has no right to become parents as long as they live in ignorance as to the conditions it prepares for its offspring. You have no right to bring offspring to this plane under such conditions as it will suffer for your brutality. The body must be healthy and no higher law allow unity of bodies unless offspring is desired.

Q. Shall we meet our children after death?—SALLIE.

A. That depends upon the affinity between yourself and your children.

Q. Are we in reality where we see visions when we take our mind from the body?—MARY.

A. Yes, as soon as we take our mind from the body we are where our soul is the most active and visions are the reflections from the soul upon the physical senses.

Q. How can it be that the Angels can be with us, they are not in the same body as we are and have nothing to do with the physical?—ESTHER.

A. My dear sister you must not limit spirit to the body; Angels and souls are independent of time and space, and distance have no power over them, hence they are where our mind and desires attracts them no matter where we are, outside of the physical senses there is no limit.

Q. Sister, when you are in meditation in the temple are you among the Masters and do they dictate to you what you say? Seeker.

A. Sister, I cannot write in this little paper what experiences I have when I am in meditation among the Brothers, as the untrained mind is not ready for it.

Q. If we join your meditation this summer can we have the same experience as you have?—R.

A. Brother, that depends upon your unfoldment and spirituality.

Q. Why is the psalms of David any better than any other part of the scripture?—H.

A. My good brother the psalms of David was written specially for the purpose of attracting the higher power which is back of them because they were written by the illuminates of the temple.

Q. Can one develop clairvoyance by concentration upon the Deck of Cards?

A. Yes, and many other expressions of power.

Q. I have two offers of marriage, can you tell me which one to accept?—LIZZIE.

A. Oh my dear friend, if your own heart does not answer that question for yourself I advise you to leave both alone. We cannot deal with such questions as they are out of our line of work.

Q. Do you think sister, that this world will become lost in the end?—HARRIET.

A. No sister, nothing can become lost, but what is visible will become invisible, and that which we do not see will become visible.

Announcement.

For books and other information, write to J. S. Warner, mgr. P. O. Box 1340, Seattle, Wash. Much Peace be with you.